Employment Skills Using a Palmtop Computer

Objective: To teach employment skills by using a palmtop computer that presents step-by-step pictures on the screen paired with auditory instructions.

Setting and Materials

Setting: Instruction is conducted in the settings in which the employment skills are performed. Here, the tasks were performed in a school cafeteria, a dining room in a retirement home, and at the student's home.
Materials: Each student was provided with a palmtop computer that depicted the assigned task in step-by-step pictures paired with auditory instructions on the screen.

Content Taught

Each student was taught a different employability skill. The tasks included:

1.   Setting a table in a school cafeteria

2.   Setting a table in the dining room of a retirement home

3.   Doing laundry at home

Teaching Procedures

The following description of this strategy has been developed based on information in the article.

1.   Tell students that you will teach them a method they can use to complete employment tasks on their own.

2.   Instructor creates the multimedia presentation by preparing photographs and auditory instructions to illustrate each step necessary to complete a task. Photographs depict student correctly completing the steps in task. Auditory instructions are instructor-created verbal directions that match each step in the task.

3.   The student is provided with palmtop computer with prepared presentation and materials needed to complete the task.

4.   The student begins playing the presentation by pressing the "play" button to view information about the first step in the task.

5.   The student watches and listens to information about the first step of the task and utilizes the materials to complete the step.

6.   The student can press the "play" button as many times as needed to complete the step.

7.   When the step is completed, the student presses the "done" button, which loads the picture of the next step in the task sequence.

8.   The student completes steps 3 – 6 for each step in the task sequence until all steps in the task are completed.

Evaluation

Collect student performance data on the number of steps completed correctly.

Lesson Plan Based on:

Riffel, L. A., Wehmeyer, M. L., Turnbull, A. P., Lattimore, J., Davies, D., Stock, S., & Fischer, S. (2005). Promoting independent performance of transition-related tasks using a palmtop PC-based self-directed visual and auditory prompting system. *Journal of Special Education Technology*, *20*(2), 5-14.